

EA



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/755,751	01/12/2004	Forrest F. Wing	P06406US00	9630

27139 7590 07/14/2005

MCKEE, VOORHEES & SEASE, P.L.C.
ATTN: MAYTAG
801 GRAND AVENUE, SUITE 3200
DES MOINES, IA 50309-2721

EXAMINER

MILLS, DANIEL J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3679

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

EA

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/755,751	WING, FORREST F.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Daniel J. Mills	3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Page 1 line 17 "than" should be changed to --that--; page 1 line 30 "manufacture" should be changed to --manufacture,--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

Claim 8 is objected to because of the following informalities: "flange" should be changed to --flanges--.

Claim 9 is objected to because of the following informalities: "the second clip flange" should be changed to -- each of the second clip flanges --.

Claim 13 is objected to because of the following informalities: "comprises" should be changed to --comprise--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Art Unit: 3679

Claim 14 recites the limitation "the door surface" (line 2). There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, and 6-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sheiman et al (US 4,422,212).

As to claim 1, Sheiman discloses a bidirectional slide lock comprising an elongated first clip (2) having a first longitudinal axis, a first pawl (54), a second pawl (62), and a pair of first clip flanges (36, 38), an elongated second clip (66) having a second longitudinal axis, a first pawl stop (88, 90), a second pawl stop (the flange portions of 84 near 94 in figure 2), and a pair of second clip flanges (70, 72), the first and second clip flanges retentively engaging one another to hold the first and second clips together to prevent movement away from one another, the first and second pawls retentively engaging the first and second pawl stops, respectively to hold the first and second clips against longitudinal movement relative to one another along the first and second longitudinal axes, and first (52) and second springs (the area between the end of 62 and 22) biasing the first and second pawls, respectively toward the second clip so

Art Unit: 3679

as to retain the first and second pawls in retentive engagement with the first and second pawl stops, respectively.

As to claim 2, Sheiman discloses a bidirectional slide lock further comprising a first screw (18) and a first hole (30) within the first clip to receive the first screw.

As to claim 6, Sheiman discloses a bidirectional slide lock further comprising a second screw (180) and a second hole (110) within the second clip to receive the second screw

As to claim 7, Sheiman discloses a bidirectional slide lock further comprising a handle surface (100 - the roller can act as a handle to pick up the luggage) adapted to receive the second screw.

As to claim 8, Sheiman discloses a bidirectional slide lock wherein each of the first clip flanges is an inwardly curved arc (clearly they curve toward the centerline of the clip).

As to claim 9, Sheiman discloses a bidirectional slide lock wherein each of the second clip flanges (70, 72) has a lip that engages the inwardly curved arc.

As to claim 10, Sheiman discloses a bidirectional slide lock for attaching first and second members together comprising an elongated first clip (20) having a first longitudinal axis and being attached to the first member (10), the first clip having a pair of first clip flanges (36, 38) and a pair of pawls (54, 62), the pair of pawls each having a pawl end, the pawl ends of the pair of pawls facing in opposite directions away from one another, an elongated second clip (66) having a second longitudinal axis and being attached to the second member (12), the second clip having a pair of second clip

Art Unit: 3679

flanges (70, 72) and a pair of pawl stops (88, 90 and the flange portions of 84 near 94 in figure 2), each of the pair of pawl stops facing in opposite directions toward one another, the first clip flanges and the second clip flanges retentively engaging one another to hold the first clip against movement away from the second clip, and each of the pawl ends of the pair of pawls retentively engaging one of the pair of pawl stops so as to prevent longitudinal movement of the first and second clips relative to one another along the first and second longitudinal axes, whereby the first and second clips hold the first and second members together against movement relative to one another.

As to claim 11, Sheiman discloses a bidirectional slide lock wherein the pair of pawls are each biased toward the second clip by a spring (52 and the area between the end of 62 and 22).

As to claim 12, Sheiman discloses a bidirectional slide lock wherein the spring biasing each of the pair of pawls comprises a spring arm (56, 62) on which each of the pawls is mounted.

As to claim 13, Sheiman discloses a bidirectional slide lock wherein the second clip comprises an elongated strip having a pair of spaced apart holes (92, 94) therein, and the pair of pawl stops each comprise an edge of one of the spaced apart holes.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

Art Unit: 3679

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3-5 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sheiman (US 4,422,212) as applied to claim 1 above, and in further view of Busnelli (US 6,094,866).

As to claim 3, Sheiman discloses a bidirectional slide lock further comprising a surface adapted to receive the first screw. Sheiman fails to disclose that this surface is part of a door.

Busnelli teaches the application of wheels on the bottom surface of sliding doors for the purpose of allowing the door to slide smoothly. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the device as disclosed by Sheiman to the bottom of a door as taught by Busnelli for the purpose of allowing smooth movement of the door, so that the surface adapted to receive the first screw is the door surface.

As to claim 4, Sheiman in view of Busnelli discloses a bidirectional slide lock further comprising a leg (the screw/pin 16) adapted to extend into the door surface.

As to claim 5, Sheiman in view of Busnelli discloses a bidirectional slide lock wherein the leg (the screw/pin 16) is attached to the first clip (as it is when assembled).

As to claim 14, Sheiman in view of Busnelli discloses a bidirectional slide lock further comprising a leg (the screw/pin 16) upon the first clip adapted to extend into the door surface.

As to claim 15, Sheiman in view of Busnelli discloses a bidirectional slide lock wherein first clip is attached to the door surface by a screw (18).

Art Unit: 3679

As to claim 16, Sheiman in view of Busnelli discloses a bidirectional slide lock herein the first clip is attached to the door surface without the use of a receiving clip.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Mills (US 2,731,662), Remington (US 4,332,052), Reubel (US 965,658), Minuti (US 2,994,888), Goldstein (US 3,548,425), Sturt (US 6,722,722), and Mutz (US 5,653,550) are cited for pertaining to sliding catches or clips.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel J. Mills whose telephone number is 571-272-8115. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3679

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


DJM
7/08/05


GREGORY J. BINDA
PRIMARY EXAMINER